

Position Statement: Support for HB 5911 Issued March 9, 2015
An Act Restructuring the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board

Reasons to Restructure the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board

1. The EMSAB is comprised of 41 members.
 - Only twice during the year 2014 did the EMSAB have more 50% membership attendance.
 - The EMSAB has consistently failed to comply with the provisions contained in their own bylaws related to sending letters to members who are absent from meetings and notifying their appointing authorities. DPH has no record that any letters have been sent out by the EMSAB.
2. CGS Sec. 19a-178a (e) states that “*The advisory board shall make an annual report to the commissioner.*” The EMSAB has failed comply with this statute for at least the last 5 years.
3. There is no evidence that the EMSAB has ever clearly articulated a vision for EMS in the State of Connecticut. This includes how it plans to ensure Connecticut meets the National Scope of Practice, or a process for improvement of the system. The NHTSA review of EMS in Connecticut provided guidance for the system, however if any of the recommendations have been addressed, it is not apparent to the end users of the system.
4. The Board does not appear to have an understanding of budgeting and/or the municipal budget process. They have recommended implementation of several changes to scope of practice or requirements for equipment at times of the year after budget are already set or spent. With much of the state having a municipal component to their EMS delivery system, this is problematic. At best, it shows a strong disconnect between the Board and the outside world.
5. The EMSAB has not made significant progress to unifying the State's EMS system under one (1!) set of universal protocols.
6. While they champion the importance of the regional councils, the EMSAB has yet to provide any data that quantifies their usefulness or purpose. Eliminating the 5 Regions would allow DPH to streamline protocols, initiatives and programs statewide.
7. The EMSAB is positioned to champion EMS at the legislative level; yet, the EMSAB has proposed very few bills to improve EMS in Connecticut and does not consistently submit testimony advocating for or against bills that will affect EMS in Connecticut.

Proposed Improvements

1. Repeal sections of the relevant regulations that create the 5 regional councils, as they are an unnecessary level of bureaucracy on providers on EMS Providers.
 - Connecticut is small. We do not need 5 separate regional councils to coordinate EMS.
 - There is great disparity between the activities of the 5 Regional Councils.
 - Eliminating the 5 Regions would allow DPH to streamline protocols, initiatives and programs, assuring that all state residents receive the same level of EMS care.
2. Right-sizing the EMSAB will breathe new life into Connecticut's EMS System. This board should be charged with establishing a vision and an associated strategic plan for Connecticut's EMS System with specific, articulated benchmarks, deliverables, and deadlines.

For additional information:

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